



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

17 NOVEMBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – California Reimposes COVID-19 Restrictions on 40 Counties as Cases Surge

(U) California Governor Newsom said on 16 November that the state is hitting an "emergency brake" on economic activity considering what he calls an unprecedented spike in COVID-19 cases statewide. His announcement comes days after California joined Texas in becoming the second such state to surpass 1 million confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began. It also comes as California broke its record for new COVID cases in a single day, with 13,280 Monday. As of Monday, 28 counties are moving back to the most restrictive tier of California's matrix governing business operations. The move means 41 of the state's 58 counties are now in the "purple" tier, which restricts capacity at retail establishments, closes fitness centers, and forces restaurants to limited outdoor-only service.

SOURCE: 17 November 2020, [CBS News](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Hate Crimes in US Reach Highest Level in More Than a Decade

(U) Washington – Hate crimes in the US rose to the highest level in more than a decade as federal officials also recorded the highest number of hate-motivated killings since the FBI began collecting that data in the early 1990s, according to an FBI report released Monday. There were 51 hate crime murders in 2019, which includes 22 people who were killed in a shooting that targeted Mexicans at a Walmart in the border city of El Paso, Texas, the report said. The suspect in that August 2019 shooting, which left two dozen other people injured, was charged with both state and federal crimes in what authorities said was an attempt to scare Hispanics into leaving the US.

SOURCE: 17 November 2020, [AP](#)

(U) Pennsylvania – Man Charged with Threatening to Blow Up Veterans Affairs Hospital

(U) Ashely – Police with the US Department of Veterans Affairs arrested a man from Ashley after he allegedly made threats to "gut" people and blow up the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Joseph Adam Prednis, 55, made the threats during phone calls with the medical center on Friday, according to court records. Prednis was charged with a misdemeanor count of terroristic threats. He was arraigned by a District Judge who jailed him at the county correctional facility without bail. According to the criminal complaint, an employee in the medical facility's call center told police Prednis made statements he was going to "Wack everyone of you, just you see, you name the day and I'll be there."

SOURCE: 17 November 2020, [Timesleader](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Canada – Accused Canadian Neo-Nazi Soldier Offered US Terror Group Paramilitary Training

(U) Toronto – A former Canadian soldier facing terrorism-related charges in the US promised fellow members of a neo-Nazi terror group that he could train them at a secretive paramilitary camp in the US. Patrik Mathews, 27, made the comments in a call with members of the Base, a recording of which was obtained by the media. Mathews disappeared in August 2019 along the US-Canadian border near

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Minnesota only to reappear months later in handcuffs after a January 2020 FBI raid in Delaware.
SOURCE: 17 November 2020, [Vice](#)

(U) Democratic Republic of Congo – Military Patrol Discovers 29 bodies

(U) Goma – A military patrol has discovered 29 bodies in a region of eastern Democratic Republic of Congo where civilians are facing a sharp rise in attacks by Islamist militants, local authorities said on Tuesday. The victims were found in the Beni territory of North Kivu province, local army spokesman Anthony Mualushay said without giving further details or saying who was believed to be responsible. The province's deputy governor, Lumoo Kahumbo said initial findings showed the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan Islamist militia, were responsible for the massacre.

SOURCE: 17 November 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) Somalia – At Least Two Dead in Bomb Attack

(U) Mogadishu – At least two people have been killed in Somalia's capital Mogadishu after a suicide-bomber blew himself up in a restaurant near a police base. It was unclear who was behind the attack. "A blast occurred at a restaurant near School Policio (police base), we shall give details later," police spokesman Sadik Ali told open source reporting in a WhatsApp message. A witness, shopkeeper Mohamed Ali, told open source reporting at least two people were dead from the blast. He added that he could see huge clouds of smoke rising above the restaurant and ambulances trying to reach the blast site. Al-Qa'ida-allied Islamist group al-Shabaab frequently carries out bombings in Mogadishu and elsewhere in Somalia as part of its campaign to topple the central government.

SOURCE: 17 November 2020, [AP](#)

(U) Mali – French Forces Kill AQ linked Commander

(U) Menaka – French ground forces and military helicopters killed a jihadist commander linked with al-Qa'ida in Mali along with four others, the French military announced Friday. The operation Tuesday targeted Bah ag Moussa, military chief for the RVIM Islamic extremist group, who had been on a UN sanctions list and was believed responsible for multiple attacks on Malian and international forces in the country, French military spokesman Coronel Frederic Barbry told reporters Friday. Drones helped French forces in Mali identify Moussa's truck in the Menaka region of eastern Mali, which was then targeted by the helicopters and 15 French commandos sent to the scene, Barbry said. All five people in the truck were killed after they ignored warning shots and fired on the French forces, he said.

(U) SOURCE: 16 November 2020, [ABC](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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